

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06BAGHDAD2059, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX BLAMES UK FOR SECURITY

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tag **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06BAGHDAD2059**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06BAGHDAD2059	2006-06-18 12:52	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Baghdad

Appears in these articles:

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/wikileaks/Wikleaks-US-anger-at-Gordon.6779840.jp>
<http://news.scotsman.com/iraq/Wikleaks-Gordon-Brown-39wanted-to.6779847.jp>
<http://news.scotsman.com/iraq/Wikleaks-Iraqi-premier-feared-British.6779849.jp>
<http://news.scotsman.com/iraq/Wikleaks-Tories-asked-to-oppose.6779848.jp>
<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Leader-Historical-insight.6779771.jp>

VZCZCXRO2631
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK
DE RUEHGB #2059/01 1691252
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 181252Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5131
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC//NSC

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 002059

SIPDIS

SIPDIS
REL UK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/12/2026
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [PNAT](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX BLAMES UK FOR SECURITY
PROBLEMS

REF: A. A. BASRAH 93

1B. B. BASRAH 95

1C. C. BAGHDAD 1994

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARGARET SCOBAY FOR
REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (S//REL UK) Summary: In a June 12 conversation with PolOff, XXXXXXXXXXXX told PolOff the UK is largely to blame for the unrest in Basrah. The UK has not brought militias under control, and so Basrah is now a violent place, he said. This, combined with the activities of foreign intelligence services, corruption, and political rivalries makes Basrah difficult to govern, he said. The Ministry of Defense (MOD), however, is a trusted organization, and many in Basrah would prefer that it handle security, rather than the Ministry of Interior (MOI), which many see as corrupt. End Summary.

UK to Blame for Situation in Basrah

2. (S//REL UK) On June 12, XXXXXXXXXXXX told PolOff that the UK was to blame for the lack of security in Basrah. He said the UK has allowed Shia militias to largely control Basrah and has done little to assert control. The UK, he argued, "worked with the strong, not the qualified," and therefore Basrah has serious rule of law problems.

Three Fights in Basrah

3. (S//REL UK) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, the violence in Basrah is the result of three fights that are happening simultaneously, all of which involve Iran. The first fight is about corruption. XXXXXXXXXXXX accused Fadhila of using the money it garners through graft and corruption, sometimes totaling 650,000 USD in one month, to finance party activities. For this reason, XXXXXXXXXXXX argued, Fadhila wants desperately to maintain control of the province. If another party should gain control of Basrah in the upcoming provincial elections it would mean the collapse of Fadhila, XXXXXXXXXXXX predicted. This, in turn, he asserted, would mean the downfall of Fadhila's spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammad al-Yaqubi. Sheikh Yaqubi is therefore willing to resort to corruption and violence in order to hold on to Basrah, XXXXXXXXXXXX opined.

4. (S//REL UK) The second fight in Basrah involves foreign intelligence services, XXXXXXXXXXXX stated. He said Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iran are all actively engaged in covert operations in Basrah. Iran, according to XXXXXXXXXXXX, is especially troublesome, funding such terrorist groups as the Imam Hussein Battalion, which is responsible for the recent death of a Basrah FSN (ref B).

5. (S//REL UK) The third fight, according to XXXXXXXXXXXX, is among the various political parties in Basrah. XXXXXXXXXXXX said that, as the various political parties struggle for control of Basrah politics, parties in the Basrah Provincial Council (PC) do not wish to see the central government insert itself into Basrah affairs. The Basrah PC therefore viewed Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki's recent visit to Basrah as a direct challenge to the PC's authority.

6. (S//REL UK) The Basrah PC, XXXXXXXXXXXX said, has been trying to pull away from central government authority. "There is an attitude among the provincial leadership that Basrah's treasure should be for Basrah only," XXXXXXXXXXXX stated. XXXXXXXXXXXX said that it would take a good deal of effort to bring the situation in Basrah back under control. With Iran so heavily involved in stirring up trouble in Basrah, XXXXXXXXXXXX said, any conflict between the U.S. and Iran could result

in the complete collapse of the Basrah government.

MOI Not Trusted

¶17. (S//REL UK) XXXXXXXXXXXXX said that the people of Basrah trust the Iraqi Army and MOD, but not the MOI. The MOI, XXXXXXXXXXXXX said, is a divided ministry; each section of the ministry is like its own country, and people in different sections rarely communicate. The Iraqi Police, he said, is heavily

BAGHDAD 00002059 002 OF 002

infiltrated by militias. In Basrah, he explained, there are approximately 15,000 Iraqi Police Officers. The Basrah Chief of Police has said that half belong to a militia. The MOD, XXXXXXXXXXXXX said, is not infiltrated by militias, and so many Iraqis would rather see the MOD in charge of security.

Comment

¶18. (S//REL UK) Our contacts tell us that certain groups, such as Basrah's rival political parties and the Iranian intelligence services, appear to have an interest in promoting unrest in Basrah (ref C). A strong provincial government that is able to withstand such influences still appears to be a distant prospect. As the provincial elections draw near and rivalries for power intensify, we expect violence to increase unless the central government proves able to assert control over Basrah.

¶19. (S//REL UK) Bionote: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

¶10. (S//REL UK) Bionote continued: XXXXXXXXXXXXX End Bionote.
SPECKHARD